

DELL
COMIC

THE MASK OF NO. 578 10¢

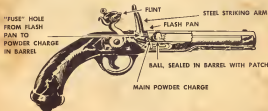
ZORRO



ZORRO'S PISTOL

Flintlock pistols are regarded by most swordsmen as rather clumsy weapons. They can only be fired once and then must be reloaded. Swordsmen would rather depend on lightning-like thrusts of a rapier or swift cuts with a sabre. But sometimes the single-shot flintlock saves even a clever fencer. He carries it in his sash or belt on the LEFT side where it can be grasped easily by his left hand. He uses his sword in his right and avoids firing his one shot until he is forced into a corner by heavy odds and can find no other means of escape. Many a brave caballero or Spanish officer owes his life to his flintlock.

To load a flintlock, a measured charge of powder is dropped into the muzzle. Then a round ball of lead is wrapped in a rag or patch of greased leather and rammed down on top of the powder charge with a short ramrod. The cloth or leather seals the ball in the pistol barrel so that the force of the powder explosion will expel the ball. Next, the caballero spills a few grains of powder in the "flash pan" just where the hammer strikes. When the hammer is pulled back or "cocked" and then released by pulling the trigger, the flint strikes the steel striking arm, and a spark falls into the "flash pan." The flash pan powder burns and ignites the main charge inside the barrel through a tiny hole leading from the pan to the charge inside the gun barrel.









NONSENSE! DREAM IS A LAZY POP WHO DOES NOTHING BUT WRITE POETRY AND DREAM. HE IS NO RIVAL FOR DON SANDOVAL, DRIVE ON, PEDRO!

S, DON SANDOVAL.



MEANWHILE, AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

WHERE DOES THE GOVERNOR GO ALONE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IN SUCH SECRECY?

IF I TOLD YOU COLONEL ARGENTA, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A SECRET.



MEANWHILE SEND WORD TO DON SANDOVAL TO KEEP PEACE WITH THE STRANGERS OR HE WILL ANSWER TO ME!

VERY GOOD, EXCELLENCY! / ANYTHING ELSE?



YES, GIVE MY COMPLIMENTS TO DON VICENTE COMOLLA, TELL HIM I AM OBTAINED BY MATTERS OF STATE.

I SHALL RETURN TO IT AT ONCE EXCELLENCY!



AND WHILE YOU'RE ABOUT IT CURS YOUR INSULTS! CURSITHE YOU ARE MUCH TOO INTERESTED IN MATTERS WHICH DO NOT CONCERN YOU!



I SHALL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON COLONEL ARGENTA IN THESE TIMES. TOO MUCH CURIOSITY IS NOT GOOD IN ONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW ORDERS.



SEVENTEEN
LATER,
OUTSIDE
OF TOWN...

ZORRO?

RIGHT HERE,
EXCELLENCY!

FORGIVE
ME FOR
ASKING
YOU TO
MEET
HERE,
BUT—

YOU'RE RIGHT, ZORRO.
WE CAN'T BE TOO
CAREFUL!

ZORRO WOULD NO LONGER
BE ABLE TO SERVE CALI-
FORNIA IF HIS ENEMIES
KNEW THAT WHEN DON
DIEGO PUTS DOWN HIS
SHUFFBOX, ZORRO TAKES
UP HIS SWORD!

ALWAYS
IN THE
CAUSE OF
JUSTICE
AND AT
YOUR
SERVICE,
EXCELLENCY!

AND UNLESS I AM MISTAKEN, THE
STRANGERS ARE CASTING GREEDY
EYES IN THE DIRECTION OF CALI-
FORNIA, KNOWING THAT
SPAN IS WEAK
AND MEXICO
IS TORN WITH
INNER
STRIFE.

IF ZORRO FOR MONTHS SECRET
OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN ARRIVING
FROM MADRID WARNING OF FOREIGN
AMBITIONS, NOW OUR WORST
FEARS ARE REALIZED.

I HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT
BARON WISLKENSK HAS ARRIVED
AT THE FOREIGN TRADING POST.

THE SAME
WISLKENSK WHO
COMMANDS THE
FOREIGN FORCES
IN ALASKA!



HE IS THE BANE, AND
IS TOO IMPORTANT TO SUPERVISE
TRAPPING OPERATIONS!



IT IS OBVIOUS NOW, THAT
THE RECENT CLASHES HAVE
BEEN PLANNED, NOW, MORE
THAN EVER, WE MUST FIND A
WAY TO AVOID THESE CLASHES
AND END THE THREAT TO ALTA
CALIFORNIA!



HERE IS A LETTER IN WHICH I
AUTHORIZE YOU TO ACT IN MY
NAME IF IT SHOULD BECOME
NECESSARY, USE IT AT YOUR
DISCRETION!

YOU HONOR ME,
EXCELLENCY!



I SHALL DEFEND
YOUR TRUST AND ALTA
CALIFORNIA WITH
MY LIFE!



AND NOW, EXCELLENCY, WITH YOUR
PERMISSION, I WILL LEAVE YOU
TO ATTEND THE BALL FOR SENOR
ITA CONCHOLA. I WILL HAVE SOME
EXPLAINING TO DO FOR HE WERE
TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEEK.



I AM SURE
SHE WILL
UNDER-
STAND.



SI, BUT I DO NOT LIKE THE WAY DON SANDOVAL TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MY ABSENCE TO CULTIVATE HER INTEREST.



BUT NOW, ADIOS!

GOD BE WITH YOU, TORRES!



LATER AT THE CASINO - CONQUISTA.

HOW GOES THE BILL NUMBER?

DON SANDOVAL HAS MANAGED TO KEEP US AMUSED. HE HAS GREAT APPEAL FOR THE LADIES.



HE HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY ATTENTIVE TO FANCHITA!

SANDOVAL IS HANDSOME AND HEALTHY IF YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL, HE WILL TRY TO WIN PANCHITA AWAY FROM YOU!



UNFORTUNATELY, FATHER, I MAY MAKE HIS TASK EASIER WHEN I TELL PANCHITA THAT WE MUST POSTPONE OUR WEDDING.



POSTPONE YOUR WEDDING? WHAT WILL PANCHITA SAY?

I'LL FIND OUT NOW!



PANCHITA, MY DEAREST, I AM HERE.

AND WE WERE HAVING SUCH A PLEASANT TIME WITH YOU AWAY!



YOUR FATHER, DON SANDOVAL, WANTS TO SEE YOU ALONE...



PANCHITA, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I MUST SAY, BUT WE MUST POSTPONE OUR WEDDING FOR A LITTLE WHILE.





WHAT? DID YOU SAY POSTPONE YOUR WEDDING TO MY BROTHER AGAIN?

OH—IT CAN'T BE HELPED, VINCENTS.



THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE WERE TO BE MARRIED THAT YOU FOUND A REASON TO POSTPONE IT!

I—OH...



IT SEEMS THAT OTHER MATTERS ARE ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LOVE FOR ME! YOUR ARM, DON SANDOVAL, THE DANCE IS STARTING.



WORKLY AFTER IN THE GARDEN...

FANCHETA WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD IF YOU HAD TOLD HER OF YOUR MISSION.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW. I MUST RIDE TO THE FOREIGN TRADING POST TO RUN A VISIT TO SARON WASLENKO.



BEWARE, IF I DO NOT RETURN BY TOMORROW SEND WORD TO THE GOVERNOR WHERE I HAVE GONE.

S! EL ZORRO!



SUDDENLY, AS EL ZORRO TAKES A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE HILLS...

SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS, DIGGING IN ABOVE LA NORMA PASS, BUT WHY?





EL ZORRO, WHY DO YOU TAKE THE SIDE OF THE STRANGERS AGAINST US?



I AM NOT AGAINST YOU. I AM ONLY AGAINST BLOODSHED.



RETURN TO CASA SANCOVE, AND KEEP THE PEACE. THE GOVERNOR HAS ORDERED IT.



YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU?

TAKE ME TO YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, SERON VALLENCO.

FOUR HOURS LATER...



SO YOU ARE EL ZORRO. YOUR NAME IS KNOWN EVEN BEYOND CALIFORNIA. IS IT NOT SO, OUSA?



AH, YES, ZORRO IS KNOWN EVEN IN FAR-OFF SIBERIA.



BUT NOW, LET US SEE IF YOU CAN LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION. WHY DID YOU COME HERE?



I COME AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.



AH, SO? THEN I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR GOVERNOR...



...TELL HIM THAT I DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE ARREST AND EXECUTION OF THE MURDERERS OF AN MEN



IF THIS IS NOT DONE IMMEDIATELY, I SHALL SEND MY OWN TROOPS TO FIND THEM!

YOU WOULD INVADE CALIFORNIA TERRITORY!



I AM A REASONABLE MAN, I SEEK ONLY JUSTICE.

AND I SEEK A MOMENT ALONE WITH OUR HANDSOME GUEST.



IT SEEMS YOU HAVE MADE A CONQUEST, ZORRO.

SUCH AN EASY CONQUEST MUST HAVE BEEN PREARRANGED.



BUT, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO PRETEND TO PLAY THEIR LITTLE GAME.



OUTSIDE THE TOWN'S PORT...

TAKE ME WITH YOU TO MONTEREY, ZORRO. BARRACKS LIFE BORES ME.

ARE YOU FREE TO GO?



I AM FREE TO DO WHATEVER I LIKE.



OLGA DOES HER JOB WELL. IF SHE HOLDS ZORRO'S HAND, HE WILL NOT SO EASILY DRAIN HIS SWORD AGAINST US.



BARBY, TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO THE COMMANDER OF OUR FLEET ANCHORED OFF SANTA BARBARA... "MY DEAR TENDON, OUR PLAN IS WORKING. IN TWO WEEKS WE WILL RAISE OUR FLAG OVER MONTEREY."

LATE THE NEXT DAY... MONTEREY...

AN ATTACK, YOUR EXCELLENCY. HE WOULDN'T THREATEN US WITH THE FEW HE HAS AT THE POST.



I AM CONVINCED URSULENO HAS TROOPS READY FOR

WHERE CAN THEY BE? WE KNOW THEY'RE NOT IN CALIFORNIA.

THEN THEY MUST BE ON SHIP ANCHORED OFF THE COAST!



YOU MUST BE RIGHT, THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO.

I MUST LEAVE FOR MEXICO AT ONCE. WE MUST HAVE REINFORCEMENTS IF WE ARE TO PREVENT AN ATTACK!

AND YOUR EXCELLENCY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET IMMEDIATE HELP.

WHILE I AM GONE, ZORRO, THE FATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE IN YOUR HANDS!

GOD BLESS YOUR EXCELLENCY! WE ARE NOW IN A RACE AGAINST TIME!

The following day in Monterey...

SI DON VICENTE--IT IS ZORRO RIDING WITH THE FOREIGN WOMAN!

IS ZORRO ON THEIR SIDE OR OURS?



That night, at the Orea Conchala...

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING OF ZORRO AND THE FOREIGN ADVENTURERS!

SO SHE IS THE BUSINESS THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR WEDDING!

VICENTE, I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT OUR WEDDING. TELL HIM HIS VISITS TO OREA CONCHALA WILL BE MOST WELCOME AT ANY TIME!



THE GOVERNOR
ORDERED YOU TRAPPERS NOT TO
LEAVE DON SANDOVAL'S CABAL.



WE TAKE
ORDERS
FROM DON
SANDOVAL,
CAPTAIN
MORDA!

AND AWAY...

LOOK, BELOW, RANCH,
SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS,
AND SOME CIVILIAN!

HYE...
AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY!



IF THIS
DOESN'T PRO-
VOKE AN
INCIDENT,
NOTHING WILL!
OPEN FIRE!

SEND
THE
STRANGERS!



OHMY!

AWAY
AWAY!

AIE-E-E-E

CRACK!



THE NEXT AFTERNOON, AT A MEETING SANDOVAL WAS ARRANGED WITH THE GOV...

NOBLES OF CALIFORNIA, WHEN THE FORTUNEYERS SHOT DOWN BY TRAPPERS, THE GOVERNOR TOLD HE TO DO NOTHING! NOW THE FORTUNEYERS SHOT DOWN THE GOVERNOR'S OWN TROOPS, ARE WE STILL TO DO NOTHING?



IT IS TIME FOR ACTION!
IF THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT
SEND HIS TROOPS TO AVENGE
US NOW...



... WE MUST
OUR OWN SEND MEN!

BRAVO!
DON SANDOVAL!
WE ARE WITH
YOU!

ON TO THE
PALACE!



MEANWHILE, AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE...

EL ZORRO, WE CAUGHT
THE SEÑORITA OLGA
STEALING PAPERS
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S
SECRET FILE!

LET ME GO,
YOU BEAST!
YOU DARE
NOT KEEP
ME A PRIS-
ONER HERE!



YOU DARE TO SPY
ON US AND NOW YOU
MUST REMAIN UNTIL
THE GOVERNOR
RETURNS
TO DEAL

COURT
WITH YOU!
VASH-
LENKO
WILL MAKE YOU
RUE THIS DAY!



ZORRO--LOOK! A CROWD
LED BY DON SANDOVAL IS
STORMING THE PALACE!

DON SANDOVAL!
I WAS EXPECTING
THIS...



AND THIS COMES
AS NO SURPRISE TO
YOU, DOES IT, OLGA?

I'LL TELL YOU
NOTHING!



BERNARDO, KEEP YOUR EYE ON GUS! I'M GOING DOWN TO REASON WITH THE MOB!

LE CABALLER ZORRO!
THEY ARE DANGEROUS!

BUT BELOW, ON THE PALACE STEPS...

THE GOVERNOR IS NOT HERE, BUT IN HIS ABSENCE, I, COLONEL ARGENTA, AM THE AUTHORITY! I WILL LEAD THE CAVALRY AGAINST THE FOREIGNERS!

BRAVO, COLONEL ARGENTA!
SPOKEN LIKE A PATRIOT!

SUDDENLY...

WAIT! I SPEAK FOR THE GOVERNOR!

ZORRO!

WHEN THE GOVERNOR LEFT, HE AUTHORIZED ME TO ACT IN HIS NAME! HERE ARE THE PAPERS THAT PROVE IT!

YOU LIE! THE PAPERS ARE FORGED! STAND ASIDE OR I'LL ARREST YOU!

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH TALK! IT IS TIME NOW FOR BULLETS!

BANG!



STAND BACK!

SEIZE ZORRO!



ON GUARD, DON SANDOVAL!



I DON'T WANT TO BE SEIZED BY YOU, ZORRO!

TO DO OTHERWISE NOW WOULD ONLY MAKE YOU A MARTIR IN THE EYES OF THIS MOB...



...SO I WILL ONLY LEAVE MY MARK AS AN OBJECT OF LESSON...



TO BE REMEMBERED WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!

AFTER HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS IN THE WOODS OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

BORGARDO: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?

SANDRALDO: DON SANDRALDO HAS ASKED THE GANG TO FIGHT THE STRANGERS!



AND NOW COLONEL ARSENTA HAS JOINED THEM. WHAT OTHER NEWS HAVE YOU?

I SAW OLÉ AND SANDRALDO RIDING TOGETHER TOWARD CASA SANDRALDO. JUST BEFORE I FOUND YOU.



YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THEM. THEY ARE MOVING TOGETHER.

TO THE CASA SANDRALDO. QUICKLY!



I HAVE SPOKEN TO PANCHITA AND SHE WILL LOOK WITH FAVOR ON YOUR VISITS.

EXCELLENT, VINCENTE! LET US TOAST YOUR SISTER WITH A SLICE OF WINE!



AND NOW I MUST RETURN TO CASA CONCHOLA. PANCHITA AWAITS MY RETURN.

WHEN YOU SEE HER, TELL HER THAT MY WISH IS TO BE WITH HER ALWAYS, IF SHE WILL HAVE ME.



VINCENTE LEAVES...

GO! I THOUGHT YOUR WISH WAS TO BE WITH ME!

YOU NO LONGER FIT INTO MY PLANS.



AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU AND YOUR PROMISES TO ME IN MADRID!



AND NOW YOU WOULD DOUBLE-CROSS ME! BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL GO TO ZORRO AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING!

I'LL TELL HIM YOU ARE IN THE GRIP OF THE FOREIGNERS! THAT THEY SAWE YOU SOLD SO THAT YOU COULD PLAY THE PART OF A WEALTHY ARISTOCRAT...



...AND CREATE THE INCIDENTS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEIR TROOPS AN EXCUSE TO SEIZE CALIFORNIA!



NO, YOU WON'T, OLGA!



YOU HAVE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS! SEIZE HER!

NO, WAIT!



YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO DISPOSE OF YOU! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW!

DON'T BE TOO SURE!



ZORRO!

OLGA, COME HERE! I HEARD EVERYTHING! YOUR GAME IS UP, SANDWAL!



AFTER THEM, YOU FOOLS! THEY MUST NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!

RUN TO MY HORSE, OLGA! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!





QUARTERS LATER, WHEN TORRO FINDS THE CAVALRY ENCAMPMENT...

COLONEL ARGENTA IS NOT HERE. HE LEFT FOR THE FOREIGN CAMP UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE!

...TO SURRENDER YOU ALL WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT!

ARGENTA IS A TRAITOR! BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR, I ORDER YOU NOT TO OBEY COLONEL ARGENTA IN THE FUTURE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!

I'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT COLONEL ARGENTA BEFORE HE CAN RETURN TO HIS MEN!

FOURTY WITENBERGERS, IN A GARROF PASS SOMEWHAT THE TWO FORCES...

WHAT LUCK! ARGENTA WITH HIS SOLDIERS!

QUARTERS LATER, AS ARGENTA RIDES BENEATH A TREE...

ONE DOWN!

AAGH!

BEFORE THE OTHER TWO CAN RECOVER FROM THEIR SURPRISE, GOOD THING COMING!

TELL YOUR SOLDIER TO DROP HIS GUN, OR...

DO WHAT HE SAYS!

YOU'LL FIND SOME HORSE ON MY SADDLE, SOLDIER. THE TWO GO AND ARGENTA THEN RETURN TO YOUR COMRADES. SAIDON WITENBERG WILL ACCOMPANY ME!

WARRIOR VASILENKO! ZORRO RETURNS TO ARSENAL'S CARE...

YOUR PLOT HAS FAILED! BAZOR VASILENKO! WITH YOU MY PRISONER, CALIFORNIA WILL REMAIN FREE!

EL ZORRO, DON SANDOVAL IS APPROACHING!



I CAME TO SEE ARSENAL! BUT I SEE YOU HAVE TAKEN COMMAND, ZORRO?

THE SAME IS UP SANDOVAL! SURRENDER YOURSELF TO ME AND LET US PREVENT BLOODSHED!



VASILENKO'S CAPTURE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, I HAVE TAKEN COMMAND OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE AND WILL JOIN FORCES WITH VASILENKO'S TROOPS AND DESTROY YOU!



IT IS YOU WHO MUST SURRENDER! I WILL GIVE YOU UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO DECIDE!



YOU HAVEN'T WON YET ZORRO! SANDOVAL MAY STILL BECOME RULER OF CALIFORNIA FOR MY GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS ONE CHANCE HE MAY NOT VASILENKO! I HAVE A PLAN!



WARRIOR THAT NIGHT AT THE PALACE...

IF YOU WISH TO LIVE, VASILENKO DO AS I ORDER!

I UNDERSTAND!





GUARD! GUARD! DON'T SHOOT!
IT IS I, BARON VAGLEND!



WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

NOW ON
TO THE NEXT
SENTRY,
VAGLEND!



5 MINUTES LATER...

DON SANDOVAL,
BARON VAGLEND HAS
ESCAPED FROM ZORRO!
HE IS OUTSIDE!

IMPOSSIBLE!
CALL THE
GUARD!



BUT SUDDENLY...

BETTER CHANGE
THAT ORDER, SANDOVAL! OR, IT WILL
BE THE LAST YOU EVER GIVE!

ZORRO!



YOU ARE
MY PRISONER!
CALL OFF YOUR
MEN!

NOT YET, ZORRO! I
STILL HOLD THE UPPER
HAND! SOLDIER, STAND
IN OUR CHARGING
GUEST!





WOW!

YES, ZORRO,
I'D AGREE
TO BRING
HER HOME
AS MY
WIFE!



AND NOW, ZORRO--
SURRENDER, OR PAN-
CHITA DIES!



DON SHADWAL,
YOU SAID YOU
LOVED ME!

BUT I LOVE LIFE MORE!
YOUR ANSWER, ZORRO?

Suddenly Pan-Chita breaks
away from her captor...

But Shadwal
acts quicker!



GIVE HIM
YOUR ANSWER,
ZORRO--
FIGHT!

OH-SHE HIT
MY HAND!



UGH!

MY
CONGRATULATIONS,
ZORRO!



LIKE OLD CALIFORNIA --- ZORRO
FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY
DEADLY ENEMIES WHO SEEK TO DESTROY
LIBERTY BY RIPPING ASIDE

The

MASK OF ZORRO



LOOK, FIBLO--
OUR TRAPS ARE
EMPTY!

THE RATS
HAVE BEEN
STOLEN!



DON
SANDONAL
WILL NOT BE
HAPPY WHEN
HE LEARNS
OF THIS!

HERE ARE TRACKS!
LET'S FOLLOW THEM!



LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING
BIGGER?
YEAH?

YOU HAVE FOUND
MORE THAN YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR!





QUICKLY! GET OUT OF SIGHT! HORSES ARE APPROACHING!



IT IS THE GOVERNOR'S CAVALRY!

WE MUST NOT BE SEEN! HIDE UNTIL THEY ARE GONE!



MOMENTS LATER... THEY ARE TWO OF DON SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS, CAPTAIN BORDA. THEY WERE ARRESTED!

TAKE THEM TO THE CASA SANDOVAL!



INTERVIEW AT THE CASA OF DON SANDOVAL.

... WE FOUND DIXON CARTRIDGES BESIDE THE TRAPPERS, DON SANDOVAL. BUT CAPTAIN BORDA SAID WE CANNOT RISK A QUARREL WITH THE STRANGERS.

HE DID, DID HE?



IT'S THE DUTY OF THE CAVALRY TO PROTECT MY INTERESTS! IF YOU MEET ANY STRANGE TRAPPERS, SHOOT THEM DOWN...



AND IF YOU SAY ANYTHING TO BORDA -

I GOT A WORD DON SANDOVAL! I WOULD NOT BE HERE IF I WERE NOT LOYAL TO YOU!



THE NEXT AFTER-NOON, A CALIFORNIA PATROL UNEXPECTEDLY SIGHS...



LOON - STRANGE TRAPPERS! SHOOT THEM DOWN!



I HAVE CARRIED OUT DON SANDOVAL'S ORDERS! NOW LET HIS ANGER BE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES!

BLAM!
BLAM!

AT NIGHT, AT THE FOREIGN TRADING POST...



PARDON, EXCELLENCY. I KNOW YOU'RE OWING, BUT...

HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT ME, RAKDY!



THREE OF OUR TRAPPERS HAVE BEEN SHOT!

AH, SO.



EXCUSE ME, EXCELLENCY. URGENT MATTERS REQUIRE MY ATTENTION!



IT WAS SACRED PROSECUTION, EXCELLENCY! OUR MEN WERE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!

SHALL I ADDRESS A LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA?



NO! WE'LL HANDLE THIS MATTER OURSELVES WITH BULLETS!



WHENEVER YOU SEE SANDOVAL'S TRAPPERS, SHOOT FIRST AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!



THE NEXT NIGHT AS DON DIEGO COMPLETES A TOUR OF HIS ESTATE...

Don Diego

FIRE, DON DIEGO! SHALL I RIDE FOR THE CAVALRY?

THERE IS NOTHING!



MY MASK AND CLOAK, BERNARDO!



SINCE THE STRANGE TRAPPERS HAVE COME, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS THAT THE PLACE MIGHT BE BROKEN!



WAIT HERE WHILE I INVESTIGATE BEHIND THE MASK OF SANDOVAL!



I AM OUT OF AMMUNITION!

SO AM I!
WE ARE LOST!



CAPTAIN HAKOV,
SANDYVILL'S MEN
DO NOT ANSWER
OUR FIRE!

THEY MUST
BE OUT OF
AMMUNITION!
CHARGE!



FOREIGN TROOPS FROM
THE TRADING POST
ATTACKING CALIFORNIA!
BUT, IF I
CAN SURPRISE
THEM, TR-SEEDY
MAY BE ASSERTED!



SWISHHHH!



THAT SWORD?
WHERE DID IT
COME FROM!

HE WHO
BIDES MY
SWORD WILL
DIE!



WH-BOO IS
THAT?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE
IS ALONE! SHOOT HIM DOWN!



HOLD YOUR FIRE...

PING!

CRACK!



...OR MY NEXT SHOT WILL NOT HIT YOUR WIFE!



HIS WIFE IS DEAD! RUN! RUN!

COWARDS! HOW DARE YOU RUN FROM ONE MAN! COME BACK!



WHO IS NO RUN! HE IS AN AWESOME SPIRIT OR THE DEVIL HIMSELF!



YOU MEN WILL SUFFER FOR THIS WHEN HE RETURN TO THE ROSE!



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY, SANDOK'S MEN FLEE ...



SHORTLY LATER, ZORRO FINDS...

TWO TRAPPERS... DEAD...



ZORRO ARE YOU SAFE?

YES, BERNARDO, BUT CALIFORNIA IS NOT!



I SHALL WEED MY MARK IN THE TIME AHEAD! NOW, RIDE TO THE GOVERNOR AND ASK HIM TO MEET ME TOMORROW NIGHT IN THE WOODS NEAR TOWN. ALTA CALIFORNIA IS IN GREAT DANGER!

I GO, EL ZORRO!



SHORTLY AT THE DESK OF THE GOV...

ZORRO!

SI, FATHER! ZORRO, ONCE AGAIN, WHILE DANGER, STALKS THE LAND!



WE ARE THREATENED BY THE BEAR THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN!

NO, ZORRO, YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!



THE STRANGERS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN TRAPPING AND TRAPPING!

AND PERHAPS ONE THING MORE...



AND WHAT IS THAT?

IT MIGHT BE THE CONQUEST OF CALIFORNIA!